

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HA-05 /101 W
-----101044 170919Z /11

R 161611Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7238
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 09588

E. O.: XGDS-L
TAGS: PEPR, AF, PK
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON AFGHANISTAN WITH FCO

1. DURING AMBASSADOR ELIOT'S CONSULTATION AT FCO ON JUNE 16, HE REVIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY MURRAY AND W. KELVIN WHITE OF SOUTH ASIA DEPT. AMBASSADOR ELIOT SOUGHT TO FOCUS THE ATTENTION OF THE FCO OFFICERS MORE CLEARLY ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION THERE.

2. MURRAY COMMENTED THAT THE WEST SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE NEW AFGHAN REGIME THAT THERE IS STILL A NON-SOVIET OPTION; WE SHOULD KEEP THE WINDOW OPEN, CARRY ON BUSINESS AS BEFORE, AND MAYBE EVEN TRY TO STEP IT UP. MURRAY RECOGNIZED THE DANGER THAT THE PAKISTANIS MAY BECOME OVER-EXCITED. HE THOUGHT THAT CENTO IS A GOOD FORUM TO DISCUSS GENERAL PRINCIPLES; HOWEVER, WE SHOULD ALSO HAVE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PAKISTANIS IN
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ORDER TO CALM THEM AND OFFER THEM SOME FORM OF SUPPORT. WE MIGHT IN ADDITION ASK THE IRANIANS TO EXERCISE A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON THE PAKISTANIS, BUT THIS TOO SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS RATHER THAN IN A CENTO FORUM.

3. AMBASSADOR ELIOT ALSO DISCUSSED WITH WHITE THE

STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL TO LIBERATE AFGHAN POLITICAL
PRISONERS THROUGH ICRC MEDIATION.

BREWSTER

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NNN

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